

**CONFIDENTIAL**

2 May 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, CIG

Subject: Attached Memorandum - Background of  
Central Intelligence

1. It would appear to be probable that members of Congress called upon to consider legislation relating to central intelligence are unlikely to have any but the foggiest of notions concerning its philosophy or *raison d'être*. It seemed to me possible that you might consider favorably the possibility of having presented to them officially some document which would provide them with a background against which specific verbal testimony would take on greater meaning. Such a document might also obviate the excessively elementary type of question which is so apt to delay the progress of Congressional hearings.

2. In going over the files of possibly useful documents I came across a memorandum prepared by the Strategic Services Unit for the War Department committee of inquiry headed by Assistant Secretary Lovett. One part of this memorandum, with which I am particularly familiar because I wrote it at the direction of General Magruder, seemed particularly well adapted for the desired use. I have revised it somewhat, eliminating certain too technical parts and expanding others which might be ambiguous. The result is attached for your consideration.

3. It is my belief that this document can be given a classification of "Confidential" since its contents are quite general. The original paper was classified "Secret" but it contained much more specific information than does the attachment, and it was written at a time when central intelligence was as yet a future development in fact.

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